

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 274

(Chair, Health Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Health)

Health

Finance

State Board of Environmental Health Specialists - Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date of the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists by five years to July 1, 2032, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures are maintained through FY 2032 for the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Health has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** The State Board of Environmental Health Specialists is responsible for licensing environmental health specialists, administering licensing examinations, verifying completion of continuing education, renewing licenses, promulgating regulations, interpreting the scope of practice, investigating complaints, and disciplining licensees. The board comprises nine members: seven licensed environmental health specialists and two consumer members.

The board is 1 of approximately 60 regulatory entities and activities subject to termination unless reauthorized periodically through statute. Under MPEA, these entities may also be subject to an evaluation by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) within DLS prior to their termination. However, OPEGA may conduct an evaluation only if directed by specified entities or by legislation. The board is scheduled to terminate July 1, 2027; OPEGA was not asked to conduct an evaluation prior to its termination. Accordingly, the board has requested reauthorizing legislation.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 119 (Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Health) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 2026  
sj/jc Third Reader - February 20, 2026

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**ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Sunset Extension

BILL NUMBER: HB 274

PREPARED BY: Hillary Fasciano

**PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING**

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESS

**OR**

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESSES

**PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**